

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently amended): Microparticles stable and storable at room temperature of insulin, ~~optionally in association with excipients selected from the group consisting of saccharides, polysaccharides, aminoacids, phospholipids and polyalcohol, said microparticles.~~

~~— being obtained by spray drying an aqueous solution of insulin having an acid pH under the isoelectric point (5.4) of insulin and a concentration of insulin in amounts of from 5 to 100 mg/ml,~~

- showing a d90 volume diameter lower than 9 μ m,
- 80% of them exhibiting an aerodynamic diameter lower than 5 μ m,

- having corrugated or raisin-like surface and containing
~~less than 10% by weight of salts,~~

- having a moisture content in the range of 2 to 8%, wherein
said microparticles being obtained by spray drying an aqueous
solution of insulin having an acid pH under the isoelectric point

(5.4) of insulin and a concentration of insulin in amounts of
from 5 to 100 mg/ml, said aqueous solution being to be spray
~~dried~~ is prepared in an unbuffered aqueous solution of acetic
acid.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): Microparticles according to
claim 17 having a tapped density lower than 0.2 g/cm³.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): Microparticles according to
claim 18, wherein insulin is in association with excipients
selected from the group consisting of saccharides,
polysaccharides, amino acids, phospholipids and polyalcohol ~~said~~
~~excipient is mannitol.~~

Claim 20 (Previously presented): Microparticles according to
claim 17 containing insulin in amorphous form.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): ~~Pharmaceutical compositions~~
~~suitable to be inhaled containing the microparticles~~
Microparticles according to claim 17 19, wherein said excipient
is mannitol.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): Pharmaceutical compositions suitable to be inhaled ~~consisting of~~ comprising the microparticles according to claim 17.